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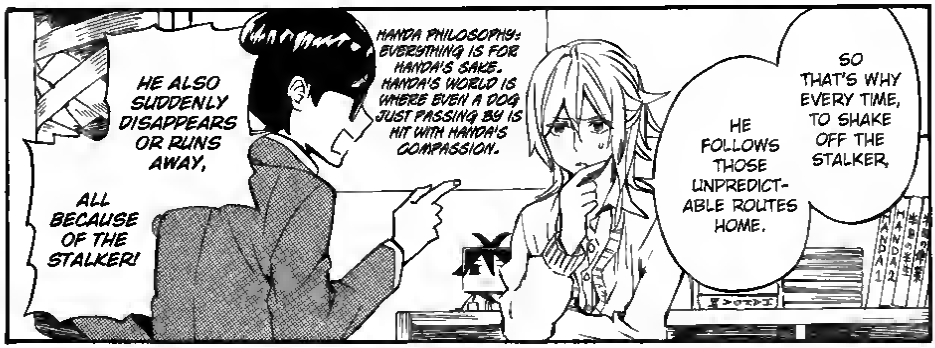
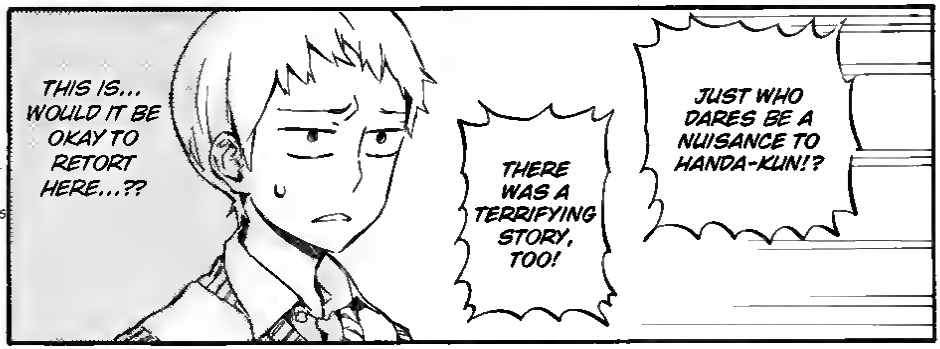
TODAY, I HAVE THE DUTY OF ESCORTING HANDA-KUN.
I AM THE HANDA GANG'S PRESIDENT, AIZAWA JUNICHI.
SFX LOOKS AROUND, LOOKS AROUND
HE SUDDENLY BECAME CAUTIOUS OF HIS SURROUNDINGS.
!
キョロ
キョロ
SFX RUN
WAIT, HANDA-KUN!!
AH!
ダッ
IT'S LIKE HE'S RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING.
THIS AGAIN. WHENEVER I ESCORT HANDA-KUN OFF, I GET THIS UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING.

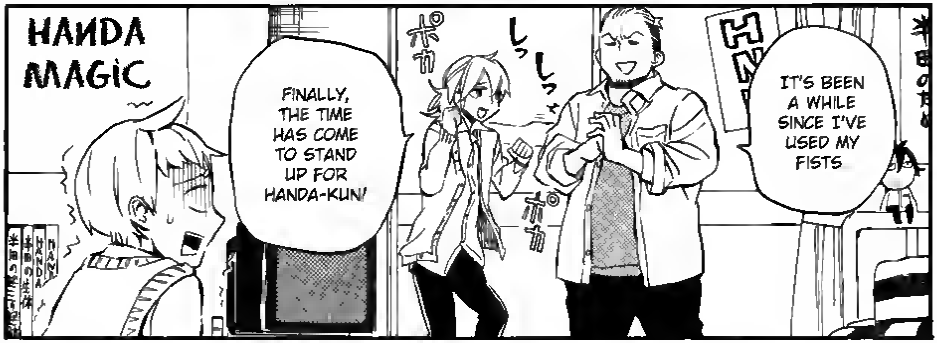
CHAPTER 19: HANDA-KUN AND THE STALKER

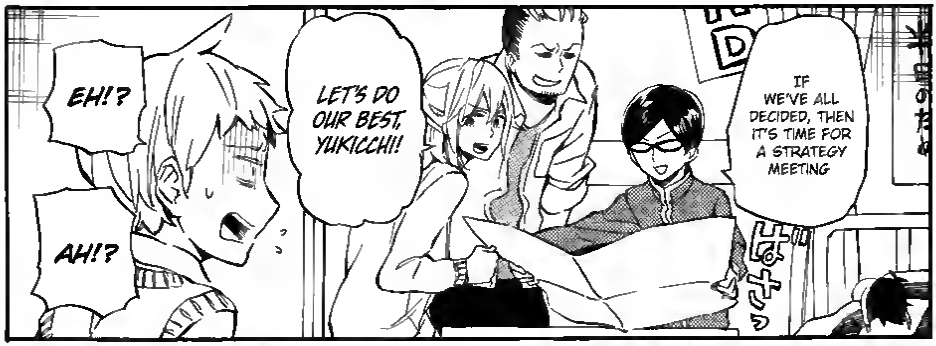

HANDA PHILOSOPHY: EVERYTHING IS FOR HANDA'S SAKE. HANDA'S WORLD IS WHERE EVEN A DOG JUST PASSING BY IS HIT WITH HANDA'S COMPASSION.
HE ALSO SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS OR RUNS AWAY,
ALL BECAUSE OF THE STALKER!
SO THAT'S WHY EVERY TIME, TO SHAKE OFF THE STALKER,
HE FOLLOWS THOSE UNPREDICT-ABLE ROUTES HOME.



T/N: RETORT AS IN TSUKKOMI (RESPONSE FOR A JOKE EFFECT) BUT HE CAN'T CAUSE THE ATMOSPHERE'S ACTUALLY SERIOUS.

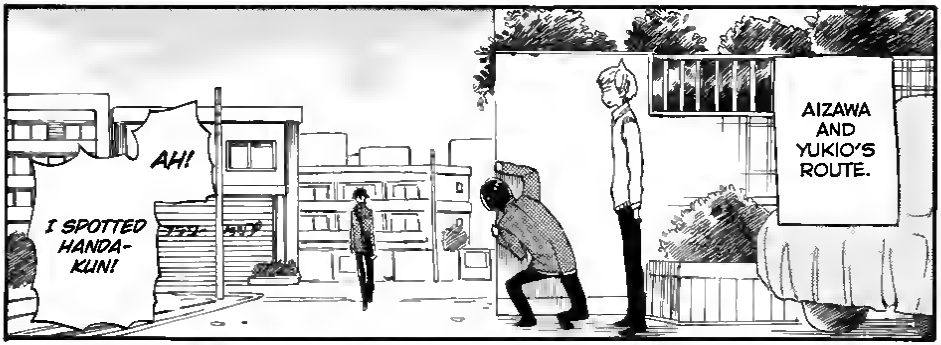
NOW, IT'S THE HANDA GANG'S TURN!
WE WILL CATCH THE STALKER TROUBLING HANDA-KUN!!
EH!?

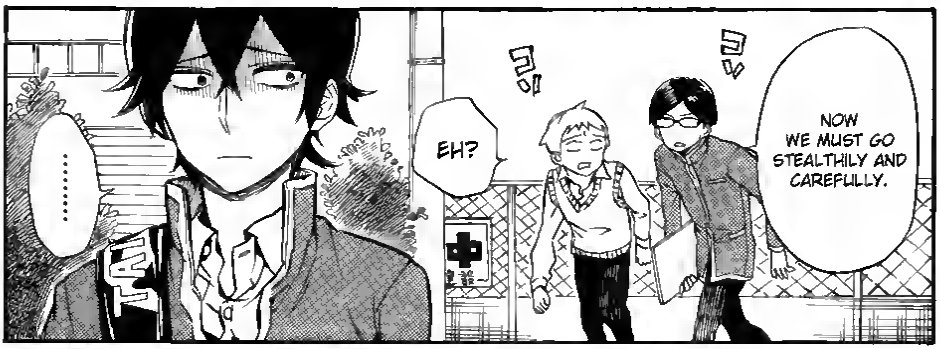

HANDA MAGIC
FINALLY, THE TIME HAS COME TO STAND UP FOR HANDA-KUN!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE USED MY FISTS


EH!?
AH!?
LET'S DO OUR BEST, YUKICCHI!!
IF WE'VE ALL DECIDED, THEN IT'S TIME FOR A STRATEGY MEETING

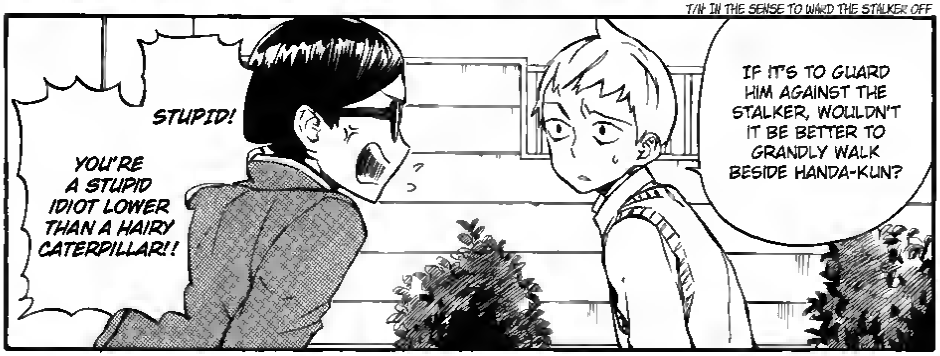
I CAN'T STOP THEM. IT'S STARTING AGAIN...
THI- THIS IS...
OKAY...

THE NEXT DAY
TO AVOID THE STALKER,
HANDA-KUN HAS TWO ROUTES HOME.
TSUKKUN, WITH REO-KUN.
LET'S SPLIT IN TWO GROUPS AND PREPARE FOR AN AMBUSH.
YUKI-KUN GOES WITH ME.
TSUKKUN IS SCARY WHEN HE'S ANGERED.
LET'S CATCH THAT BASTARD STALKER AND BEAT HIM BEYOND REPAIR.
HA-N-DA FIGHT
-OOO OO!!
NOW, IN A CIRCLE!
EVERYONE'S EAGERNESS WAS TOO MUCH; I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.





T/N: IN THE SENSE TO WARD THE STALKER OFF


IF IT'S TO GUARD HIM AGAINST THE STALKER, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO GRANDLY WALK BESIDE HANDA-KUN?
STUPID!
YOU'RE A STUPID IDIOT LOWER THAN A HAIRY CATERPILLAR!!

FOR US TO EVEN THINK OF PROTECTING HANDA-KUN IS PRESUMPTUOUS!
I GET IT. SO IT'S LIKE THAT.
THE HANDA GANG SUPPORTS FROM THE SHADOWS!
THAT IS, AIZAWA-KUN CASUALLY BADMOUTHS.

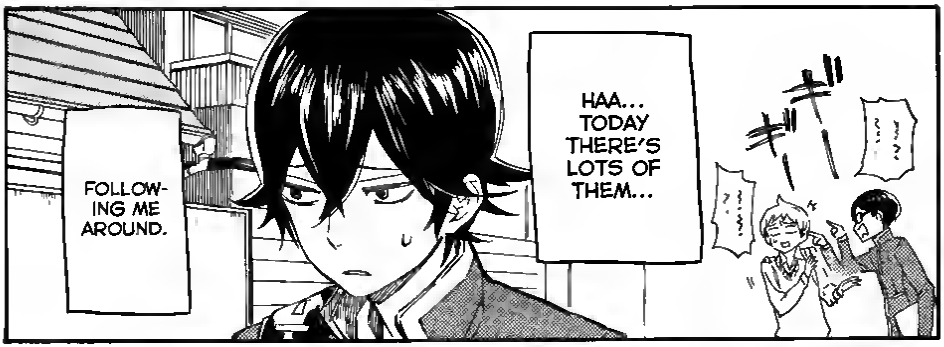
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE
!?
WHO'S THERE!?
COULD IT BE THE STALKER?
WHAT, IT'S JUST OUR CLASSMATE KINJOUMI YOKO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "JUST"!? SHE IS OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS!!

ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, HER EYES MEAN TROUBLE!
THAT PERSON IS ALRIGHT.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A STALKER, IT'S DEFINITELY HER!
LOOK! SHE'S GOTTEN AWAY!
SHE IS ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR OTHER TROUBLESOME FANS.
THAT GIRL IS HANDA-KUN'S FAN.
EVEN THOUGH SHE SEEMED JUST LIKE AN ORDINARY GIRL A MOMENT AGO ..
SHE'S ALSO KNOWN AS THE "ERASER".
SHE ACTS IN ADVANCE AND BURIES THE GIRLS WHO TRY TO GET NEAR HANDA-KUN IN THE DARK.

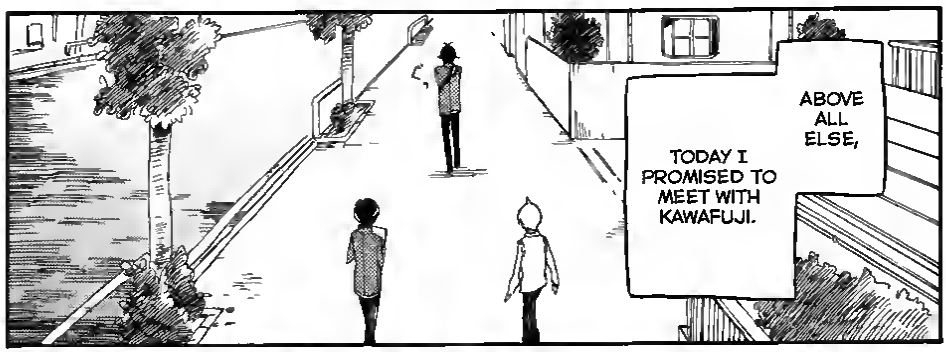
REO AND TSUKKUN'S ROUTE
HE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THIS ROUTE TODAY, HUH.
OH! ISN'T THAT...
THE LIBRARIAN?
FU FU FU.
FOR HANDA-KUN'S SAKE, I CAME AND BROUGHT ALONG SOME BOOKS TO RECOMMEND TO HIM.
秘伝書
I'M GOING TO AMBUSH HANDA-KUN AND GIVE HIM THESE.
MU FUFU FU...
ERASER

SHE TRIED TO AMBUSH HANDA-SAN SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT SHE WAS ERASED.
HEY HEY!! THE LIBRARIAN HAS BEEN CAPTURED!
ぎゅる
ぎゅる
ERASER
キャー
HANDA-KUN WON'T PASS THROUGH HERE ANYMORE.
SHOULD WE MEET UP WITH THE AIZAWA GROUP NOW?
スッ
キャー
イヤァァァ
THERE!!
ヒュー
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, TSUKKUN!?
JUST NOW I SAW SOME-ONE!!
LET'S CHASE HIM!
ナニっ

HIS PRESENCE JUST NOW WAS SURELY A STALKER'S!!
JUST WHO!?
AIZAWA-KUN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HANDA-KUN'S HOUSE IS?
...NO.
EVEN UNTIL NOW, NOT ONCE HAVE I BEEN ABLE TO ESCORT HIM ALL THE WAY HOME.
CAN'T YOU LOOK IT UP IN THE SCHOOL DATABASE?
YOUUUU!! DO YOU THINK I WOULD DO SUCH A CORRUPT THING!?
AH, SORRY I THOUGHT AIZAWA-KUN WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HOW ABOUT I SEND A BUNCH OF DARK MAILS TO YOUR HOUSE!?


FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
HAA... TODAY THERE'S LOTS OF THEM...
?!?!?!

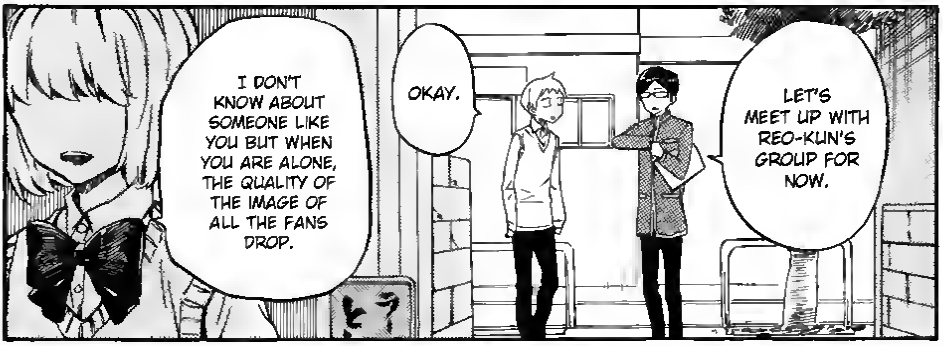
WHO KNOWS, THEY MAY INFLICT HARM ON MY FAMILY AS WELL.
IF I LEAD THEM HOME,
IF THEY ASSAULT ME IN AN ALLEYWAY WITHOUT MANY PEOPLE AROUND, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WOW SCARY~

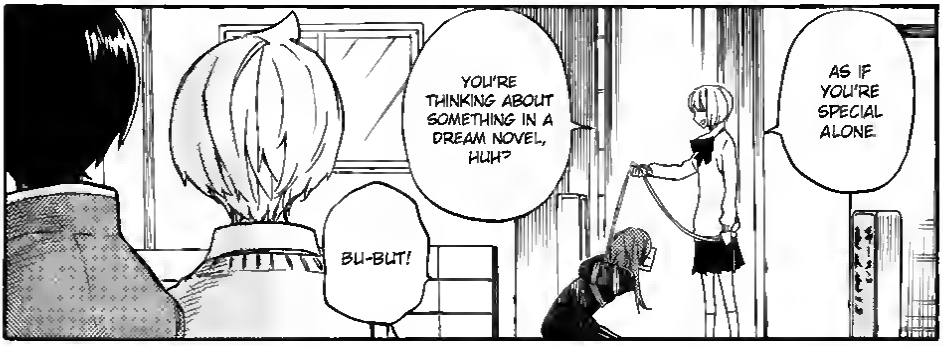

ABOVE ALL ELSE,
TODAY I PROMISED TO MEET WITH KAWAFUJI.

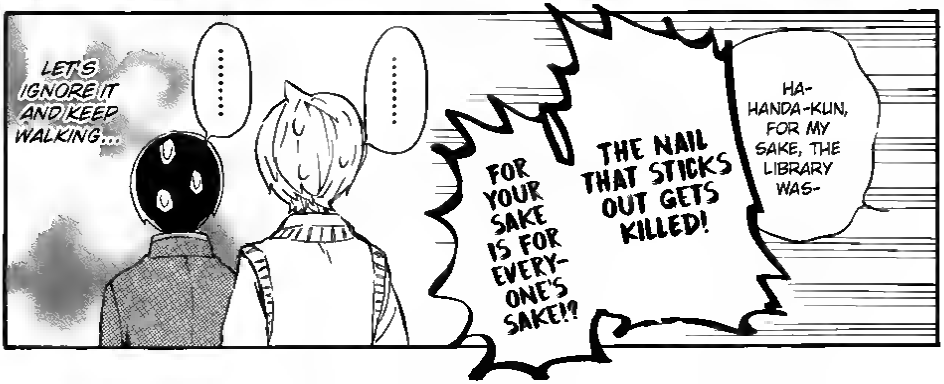
I MUST RUN WITH ALL MY MIGHT!
AH!
AS IF I'LL DIE,

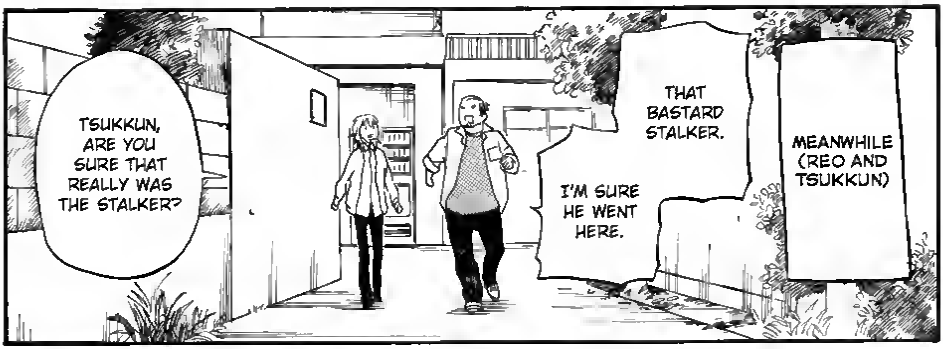
HANDA-KUN IS RUNNING AWAY!
HE RAN!
AH...
EH...
YEAH... THAT MUST BE RIGHT.
THAT MUST MEAN HE SAW THE STALKER NEARBY.
IF HE SUDDENLY RAN AWAY,
4OO OOO OOO OHH HH!!
I'VE CALLED SOMEONE SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS MOMENT.
HANDA-KUN SURE IS FAST AT RUNNING...
DASH HIGASHINO HAS BEEN DISPATCHED.
東野
JUST WHERE IS THAT HANDA!?

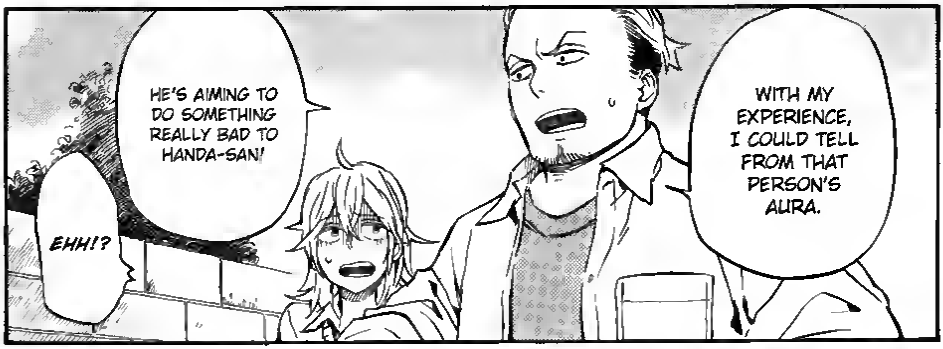
HASN'T THE GOAL CHANGED?
WHAT ABOUT THE STALKER?
WE CAN LOCATE HANDA-KUN'S HOUSE ON THE DASH RADAR.
IF HE MANAGES TO KEEP CLOSE TO HANDA-KUN,


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE YOU BUT WHEN YOU ARE ALONE, THE QUALITY OF THE IMAGE OF ALL THE FANS DROP.
OKAY.
LET'S MEET UP WITH REO-KUN'S GROUP FOR NOW.

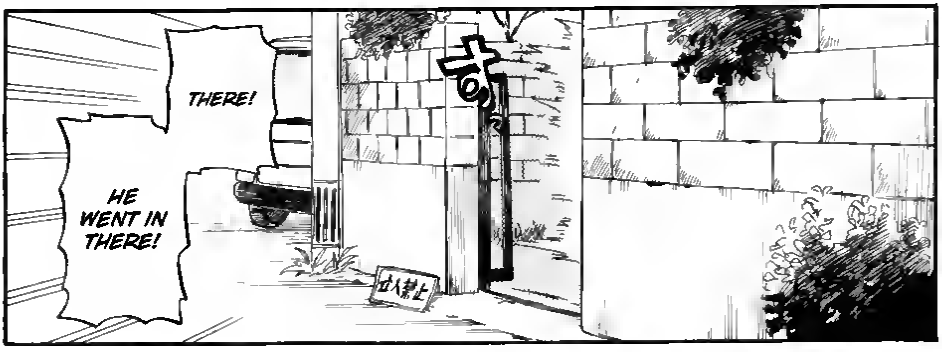

BU-BUT!
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING IN A DREAM NOVEL, HUH?
AS IF YOU'RE SPECIAL ALONE.


LET'S IGNORE IT AND KEEP WALKING...
.....
.....
FOR YOUR SAKE IS FOR EVERY-ONE'S SAKE!?
THE NAIL THAT STICKS OUT GETS KILLED!
HA-HANDA-KUN, FOR MY SAKE, THE LIBRARY WAS-


TSUKKUN, ARE YOU SURE THAT REALLY WAS THE STALKER?
I'M SURE HE WENT HERE.
THAT BASTARD STALKER.
MEANWHILE (REO AND TSUKKUN)


EHH!?
HE'S AIMING TO DO SOMETHING REALLY BAD TO HANDA-SAN!
WITH MY EXPERIENCE, I COULD TELL FROM THAT PERSON'S AURA.

HA-
TSUKKUN!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO FACE SUCH A BAD GUY!!


THERE!
HE WENT IN THERE!
ガチャ
ドア

WAIT A-TSUKKUN!!
HEY!!
STALK-ER!!
PANT
PANT
PANT
SFX: CLANG
!?

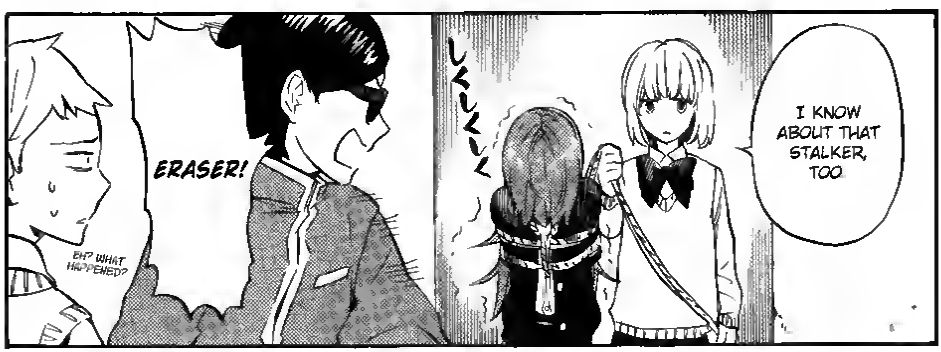
HEEEE EEYYY !!
THAT GUY!!
SINCE WHEN !?
EH!?
WHAT'S THIS!?
JOZE-CHAAAN!!
YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED~
WOO-FU
GYAAAAA!
HANDA, WHERE ARE YOUUU-!?
ギャあああ
ァァァァァァァ〜ン
JOZE-CHAAAAN~
GYAA
WE'RE SORRYYYY!
AH, WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO DASH HIGASHINO
I WONDER IF HE CAUGHT UP TO HANDA-KUN.
ピュー
ピュー
FROM SOMEWHERE, SUCH SORROWFUL THOSE SCREAMS...
LET'S RUN!! RUN AWAY!!
GEEEE

DASH!
しゃん
HAN-DAAA!!
WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU CATCH UP WITH HANDA-KUN?
EH...
WHAT?
I WENT AS FAST AS I COULD, BUT...
...NO.
STOP AIZAWA-KUN!
STOP GLARING WITH THOSE EYES!!
DASH CAN'T TURN A BEND SO SUDDENLY SO...
HANDA DISAPPEARED INTO A BEND.

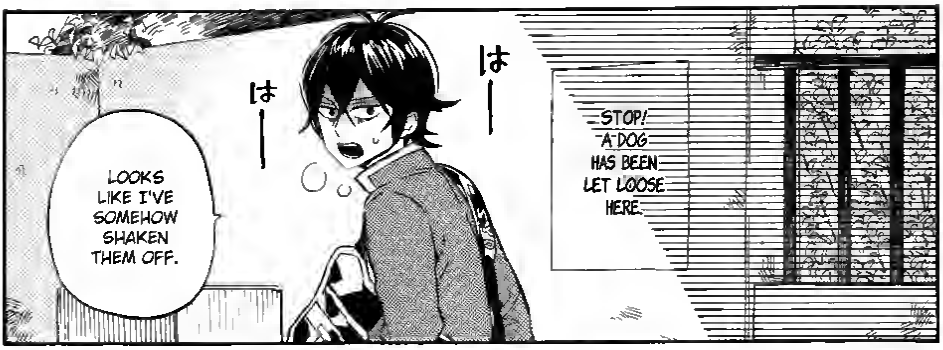
AIZAWA!
HEY... LET'S GIVE UP ALREADY.
HAA...
ANYWAY, LET'S MEET UP WITH REO-KUN'S GROUP.

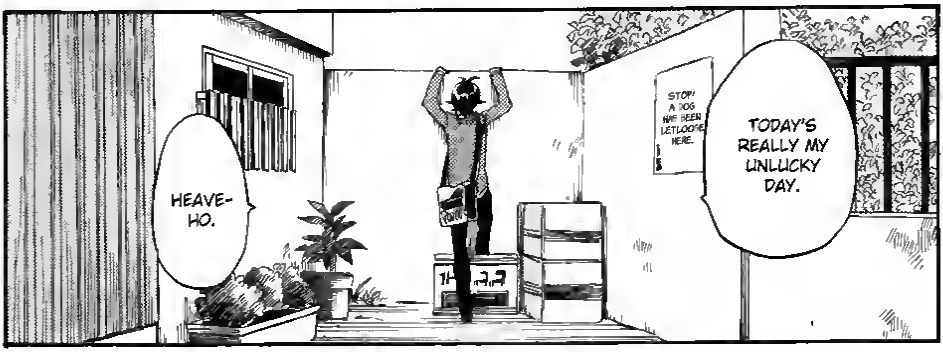
TSUKKUN PROTECTED ME
!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS!?

THERE REALLY WAS ONE..
WE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE STALKER!
WHAT!?
HANDA-SAN IS IN DANGER ..

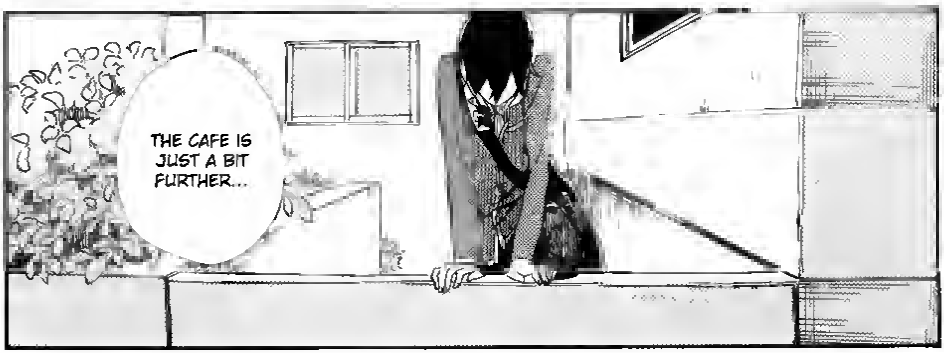

ERASER!
EH? WHAT HAPPENED?
I KNOW ABOUT THAT STALKER, TOO.

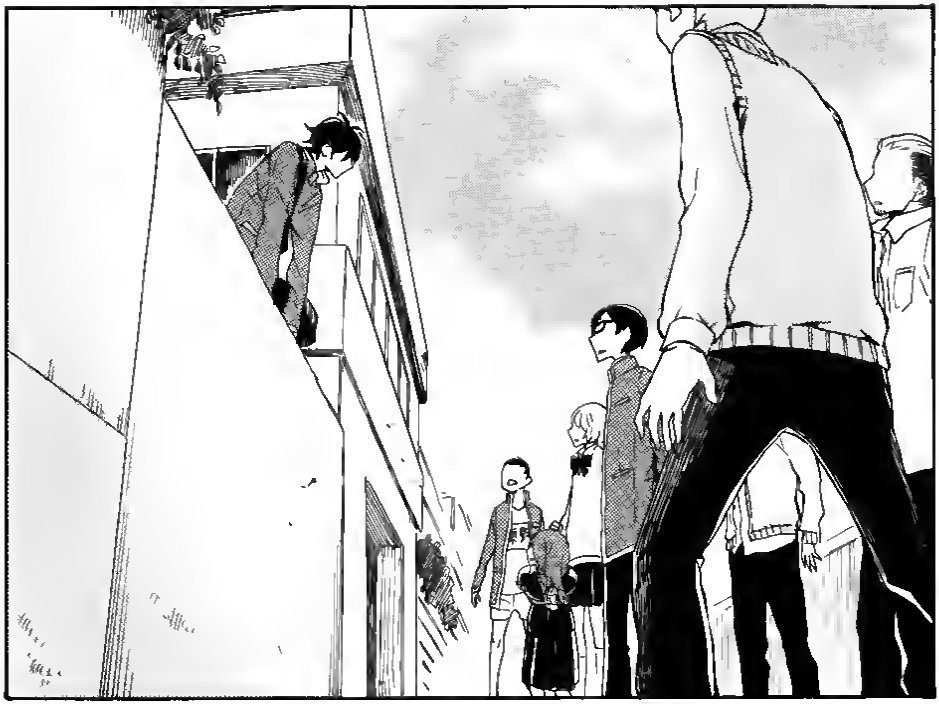
SOMETIME I SENSE THIS EVIL PRESENCE AROUND HANDA-KUN.
I'VE TRIED TO CATCH HIM MANY TIMES BUT
I CAN'T EVEN CATCH JUST HIS TAIL...
SO THE ERASER HAS BEEN TROUBLED TO THAT EXTENT, HUH.
ERASER ...
IS IT ALRIGHT TO CALL HER BY THAT?
HE'S BEEN TROUBLING HANDA-KUN!!
THAT DEVIL STALKER!
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
ME, TOO.
WE'LL CATCH HIM!
WE SWEAR ON HANDA-KUN'S NAME!
ERASER
I SWEAR ON ERASER'S NAME!
I SWEAR IT ON THE HANDA ILLNESS'S CONDITION!

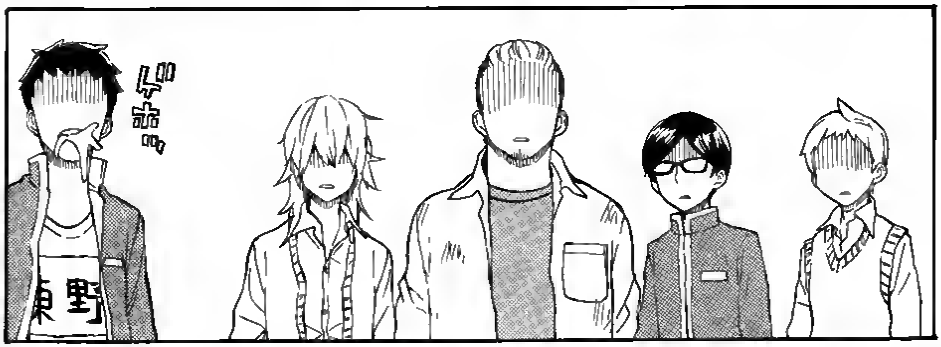

はー
はー
LOOKS LIKE I'VE SOMEHOW SHAKEN THEM OFF.
STOP! A DOG HAS BEEN LET LOOSE HERE.


HEAVE-HO.
STOP! A DOG HAS BEEN LET LOOSE HERE.
TODAY'S REALLY MY UNLUCKY DAY.

ONCE I CROSS THIS FENCE,


THE CAFE IS JUST A BIT FURTHER...

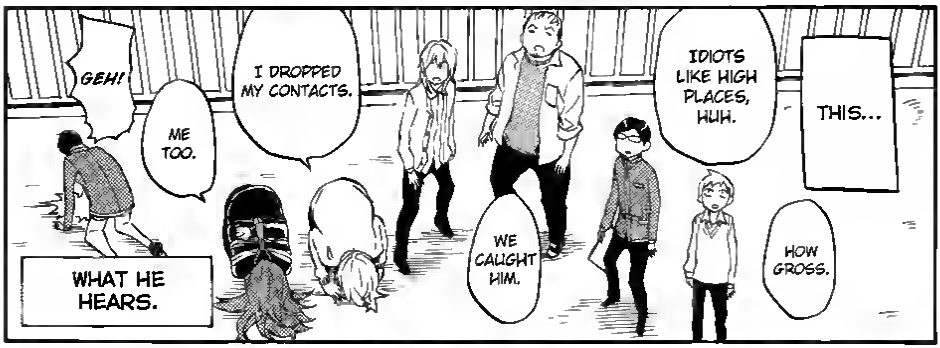


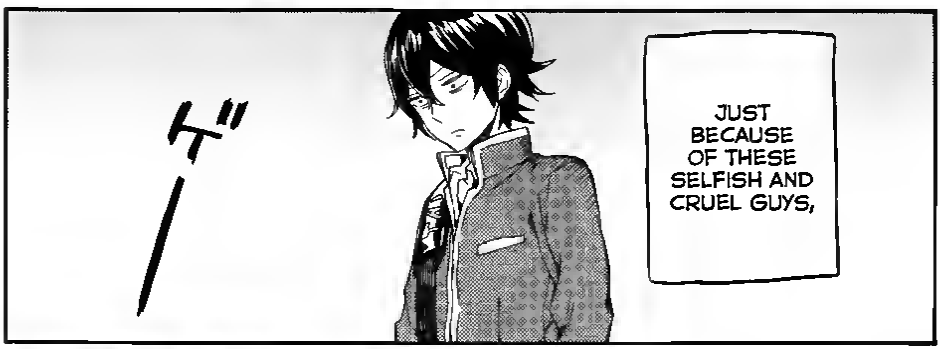

ピンポン
東野

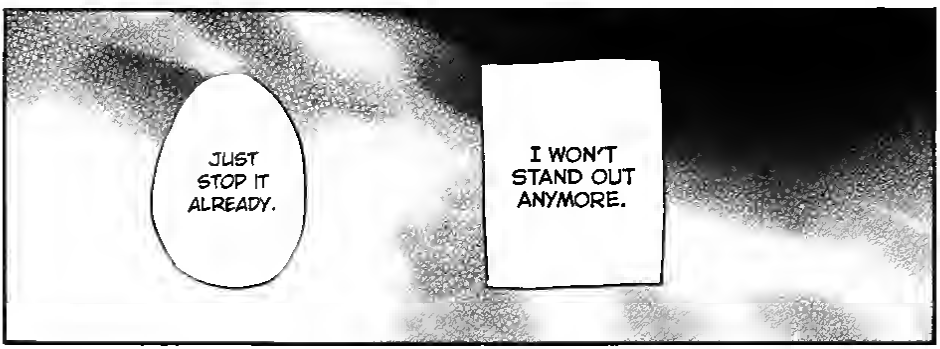
HANDA-KUN!!
HA-
JUST WHAT SHOULD WE DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
HOW RADIANT...
THE LIGHT HAS...
WH-WHAT HOLINESS!!
THEY'RE ALREADY PROSTRATING THEMSELVES!?
THE GIRLS HAVE...?
WHY ARE YOU REVEALING YOURSELF?
HANDA-KUN

EVEN THOUGH MY GOAL IS JUST A BIT FURTHER...
WHY ARE THESE GUYS HERE!?
マウンテン
EVEN THOUGH KAWAFUJI IS JUST OVER THERE...
I ALWAYS CAUSE HIM TROUBLE...
BECAUSE OF HOW I'M ALWAYS COWARDLY,
KAWAFUJI IS SURELY WAITING FOR ME.
Menu
NO...

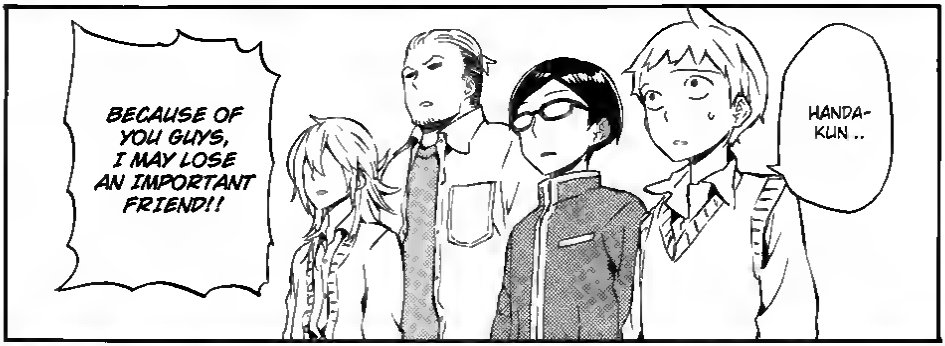
IT'S STRANGE FOR ME TO HAVE TO RUN FROM PLACE TO PLACE.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THESE PEOPLE ARE THE ONES CAUSING ME TROUBLE,


GEH!
ME TOO.
I DROPPED MY CONTACTS.
WHAT HE HEARS.
WE CAUGHT HIM.
IDIOTS LIKE HIGH PLACES, HUH.
THIS...
HOW GROSS.


JUST BECAUSE OF THESE SELFISH AND CRUEL GUYS,


JUST STOP IT ALREADY.
I WON'T STAND OUT ANYMORE.

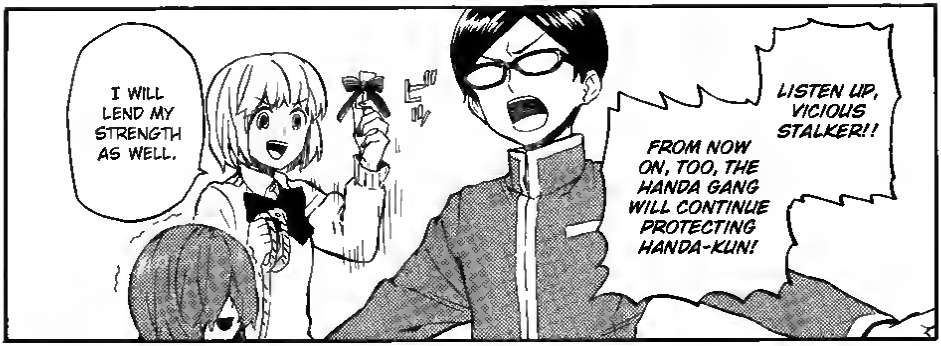
TELL ME WHAT I EVER DID TO YOU GUYS!?
EVERY SINGLE DAY, YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND. JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT!?

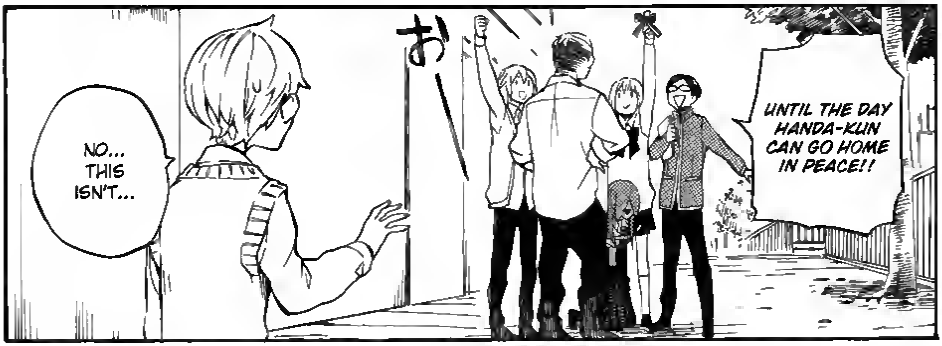

BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS, I MAY LOSE AN IMPORTANT FRIEND!!
HANDA-KUN ..

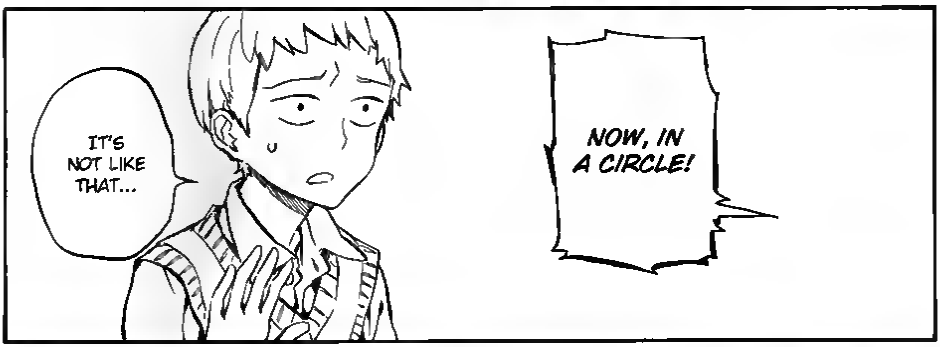
DISAPPEAR!
DON'T EVER SHOW UP IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN!!

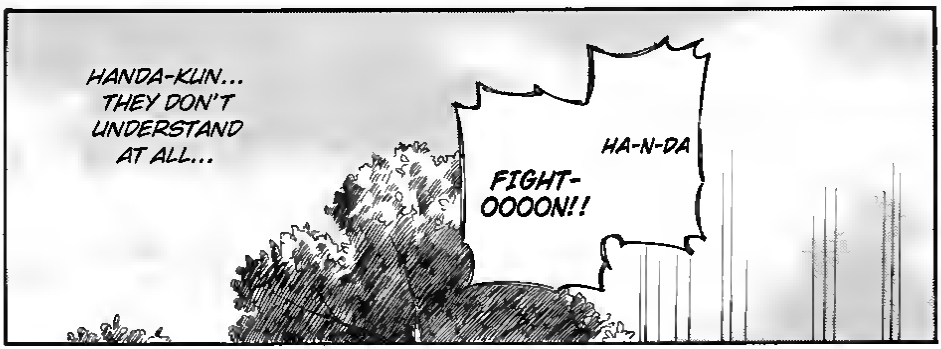
HANDA-KUN!
AH!
HANDA!
THAT'S ALL.
HANDA-KUN...
HE-HE GOT ANGRY
IT'S THE FIRST TIME HANDA-KUN STRAIGHT UP EXPRESSED HIS OPINION.
DID THEY REALIZE THAT THEY THEMSELVES DROVE HANDA-KUN INTO A CORNER?
I WONDER WHAT EVERYONE IS THINKING...
FUFUFU FUFU...
OR...

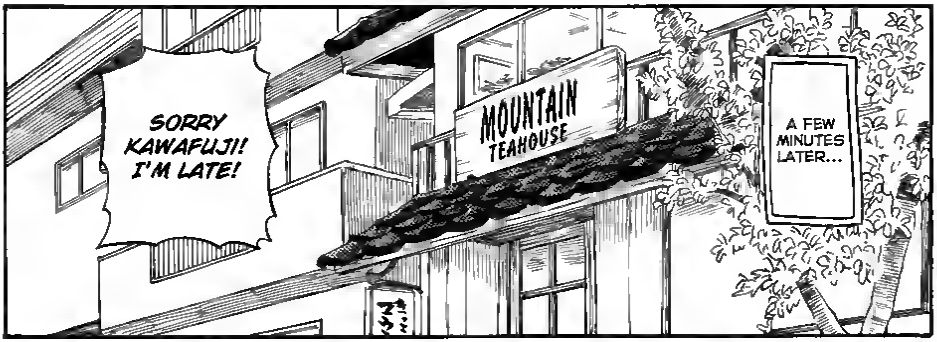
AIZAWA-KUN!?
FUHA HAHA HA!!
ばっ
DID YOU HEAR THAT, STALKER!?
JUST NOW WAS HANDA-KUN'S DECLARATION OF WAR!
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE HIDDEN,
WE KNOW!
WE BEING HANDA-KUN'S IMPORTANT FRIENDS.
TOO GOOD.. WE DON'T DESERVE HIS WORDS..
NO .. IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AIZAWA-KUN.
AH- IF IT'S LIKE THIS THEN...


I WILL LEND MY STRENGTH AS WELL.
LISTEN UP, VICIOUS STALKER!!
FROM NOW ON, TOO, THE HANDA GANG WILL CONTINUE PROTECTING HANDA-KUN!


NO... THIS ISN'T...
UNTIL THE DAY HANDA-KUN CAN GO HOME IN PEACE!!

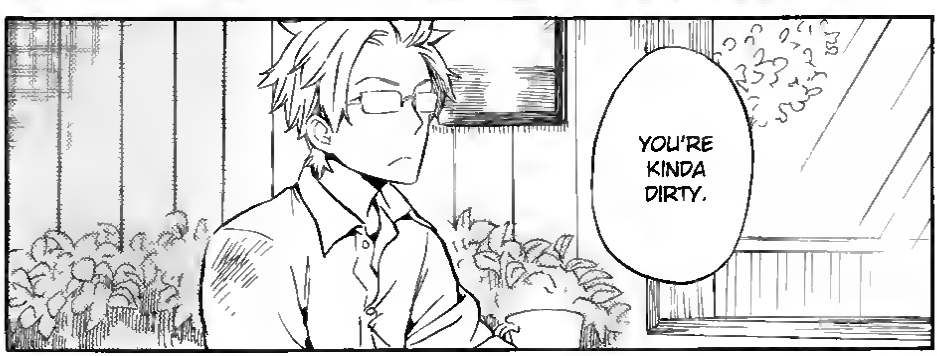

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
NOW, IN A CIRCLE!


HANDA-KUN... THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL...
HA-N-DA
FIGHT-OOOON!!


SORRY KAWAFUJI! I'M LATE!
MOUNTAIN TEAHOUSE
A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU'RE REALLY SLOW.
TODAY THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE FOLLOWING ME!

HUH?


YOU'RE KINDA DIRTY.

YOU'RE NOT INJURED, ARE YOU?
MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING WITH A DOG.
AH.
DOGS IN HEAT SURE ARE SCARY.
LIKE TWO PEOPLE.
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED PEOPLE.
TODAY I WAS ABLE TO EXPRESS MYSELF.
HEY, LISTEN TO THIS.
HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU GUYS REALLY ARE INTERESTING.
MOUNTAIN TEAHOUSE